

REMARKS:

The Notice stated that the electronic signature on page 10 of the Voluntary Amendment submitted with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) on February 5, 2010 is not between forward slash (/) marks, and therefore the document is treated as an unsigned document. On April 23, 2010, Applicants filed a Supplemental Voluntary Amendment having a duplicate Voluntary Amendment attached thereto. The duplicate (or Copy) Voluntary Amendment contained a proper electronic signature on page 10 thereof (namely, an electronic signature between forward slash (/) marks), which corrected the signature informality in the Voluntary Amendment. Accordingly, Applicants have responded to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 C.F.R. §1.121) mailed on April 23, 2010 by previously submitting the duplicate (or Copy) Voluntary Amendment containing a proper electronic signature on page 10 thereof.

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 C.F.R. §1.121) was mailed and Applicants' duplicate (or Copy) Voluntary Amendment was filed on the same day, namely, April 23, 2010. Accordingly, these papers crossed in the mail, and Applicants essentially responded to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment the same day on which it was mailed.

In other words, Applicants' hereby respond to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 C.F.R. §1.121) mailed April 23, 2010 by way of the Supplemental Voluntary Amendment having the duplicate (or Copy) Voluntary Amendment attached thereto filed on April 23, 2010. Applicants believe and submit that the foregoing and the Supplemental Voluntary Amendment having the duplicate (or Copy) Voluntary Amendment attached thereto on April 23, 2010 are a complete and proper response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 C.F.R. §1.121) mailed April 23, 2010. If there are any questions in connection with this matter, Applicants

respectfully request that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolve any outstanding issues.

Applicants respectfully submit that the inventions defined in pending claims 5, 8, and 11-16 are patentably distinguishable from Shimura, Braden, and/or Vercammen within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103 for the reasons set forth in the Voluntary Amendment filed on February 5, 2010 and the properly signed duplicate thereof submitted on April 23, 2000 and. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all rejections of Applicants' claims over these teachings.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which become due, may be charged or credited to our Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,
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